



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 August 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- According to a new study by risk management firm ID Analytics, ID thieves are increasingly targeting U.S. individuals living in rural communities, and critical areas include the cities of Springfield, Illinois, and Bozeman and Missoula, Montana. (See item [10](#))
- USA TODAY reports divers and rescue workers battled strong currents and floating debris Thursday, August 2, in an effort to reach more than two-dozen cars submerged after the collapse of an eight-lane bridge across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. (See item [17](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 02, Associated Press* — **St. Lucia resort introduces solar-powered ferry.** A solar-powered ferry has been introduced by a resort in St. Lucia that hopes to inspire others across the Caribbean. The 12-foot Sunshine Express, which has photovoltaic panels mounted on the roof, carries up to 15 guests of the Discovery at Marigot Bay resort to waterfront bars and restaurants. "One resource the Caribbean has in abundance is solar power," owner Judith Verity said. "We hope that the (ferry) will be the first of many solar-powered boats not just in St. Lucia but throughout the Caribbean." Verity said the vessel, touted as the first of its kind in the Caribbean, was designed by the harbor master and built by local craftsmen.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2007-08-02-st-lucia-ferry_N.htm

2. *August 02, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-921: Vehicle Fuel Economy: Reforming Fuel Economy Standards Could Help Reduce Oil Consumption by Cars and Light Trucks, and Other Options Could Complement These Standards (Report)**. Concerns over national security, environmental stresses, and high fuel prices have raised interest in reducing oil consumption. Through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) program, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) requires cars and light trucks to meet certain fuel economy standards. As requested, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) discusses (1) how CAFE standards are designed to reduce fuel consumption, (2) strengths and weaknesses of the CAFE program and NHTSA's capabilities, and (3) market-based policies that could complement or replace CAFE. To do this work, GAO reviewed recent studies and interviewed leading experts and agency officials. Congress should consider giving NHTSA the (1) authority to reform the car CAFE program as it did the light truck program, (2) resources to update information on new fuel-efficient technologies, and (3) flexibility to adjust the program in the future. GAO recommends NHTSA analyze the need for enhancements to the CAFE program, and, in conjunction with the appropriate agencies, evaluate policies meant to reduce fuel consumption to ensure they are achieving stated goals. DOT agreed to consider the recommendations; EPA agreed with the recommendations; and DOE did not comment on GAO's recommendations.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07921high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-921>
3. *August 02, Petroleumworld* — **Pemex contracts three semi-submersible drilling rigs**. Carlos Morales, CEO of Pemex's E&P subsidiary (PEP) said on a conference call, Mexico's state oil company Pemex has contracted three semi-submersible drilling rigs for deepwater activity. Two of the rigs have the capability to drill up to 2,100 meters (1.3 miles), while the third can reach a depth of 3,000 meters (1.86 miles). All three of the rigs will be available in 2010, Morales said. Morales spoke about the specific plans for the Cantarell and Ku-Maloob-Zaap (KMZ) fields for the remainder of this year. Pemex aims to start operations of production rigs at the KMZ fields in 2H07 PB-Zaap-C and PB-KU-H, finish five pipelines with a total 18.2km (11.31 miles) length, drill 12 development wells and inject 300Mcf/d of nitrogen for pressure maintenance purposes. At KMZ, the company started operations of the PB-KU-S rig in May, finished four marine pipelines with a total 14.4km length, and began operations of its "Señor del Mar" floating production, storage and dispatch unit. Morales added, that KMZ fields reached a maximum historic output in late June of roughly 563,000b/d after starting operations of seven new wells in May and June, Morales said.
Source: <http://www.petroleumworld.com/story07080216.htm>
4. *August 02, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **ISO New England study sees continued reliance on gas-fired plants**. New England's heavy dependence on gas-fired plants is likely to continue, with fossil fuel costs driving electricity prices and emissions levels, according to a report released Thursday, August 2, by ISO New England. The final New England Electricity Scenario Analysis is an eight-month study of how future resource choices made by state policymakers will impact reliability, prices and the environment. The report also found that New England is likely to face significant challenges in meeting its allocation of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative allowances. Demand-side resources appear to provide clean capacity

and energy to the system at relatively low capital costs, it added.

Report: http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm_wkgrps/othr/sas/mtrls/elec_report/index.html

Source: http://www.platts.com/Natural_Gas/News/6416567.xml?sub=Natural_Gas&p=Natural_Gas/News&?undefined&undefined

5. *August 02, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Utilities mull transmission line to tap northern Maine wind power.** Central Maine Power and Maine Public Service (MPS) have asked the ISO New England to review the feasibility of a transmission line that would link northern Maine with the regional grid and create a path for wind power to flow to load centers in southern New England. Tim Brown, MPS director of corporate planning and regulatory affairs, said Thursday, August 2, that the line, expected to be in excess of 100 miles, would allow transmission of more than 500 MW of wind power, most of it still in planning. While the idea of connecting northern Maine to the regional grid has been discussed for years, it has taken on a new significance given the difficulty utilities and merchant generators have encountered when they've attempted to build plants in the high-demand southern New England states. In addition to growing demand, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have renewable portfolio standards, which create pressure for more large scale wind projects.

Source: http://www.platts.com/Electric_Power/News/6416537.xml?sub=Electric_Power&p=Electric_Power/News&?undefined&undefined

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *August 02, KTVB (ID)* — **Ammonia leak forces 75 from homes.** An ammonia leak forced dozens of homes to be evacuated in Mountain Home, ID, for a time Wednesday night, August 1. The leak happened at Teton Valley Ranch, a food processing plant. The ammonia came from a tank next to the business. Residents in the area called in the leak because they smelled the ammonia in the air. Mountain Home police evacuated nearly 75 homes to the east and south of the plant — all downwind from the leak. They were instructed to report to the Mountain Home Junior High gymnasium. The leak was stopped late in the evening, and residents were allowed to go home. One person was admitted to a local hospital with breathing difficulties.

Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/news/localnews/stories/ktvbn-aug0107-mtnhomeammonia.d3be666d.html>

7. *August 02, Star Press (IN)* — **Rubber plant fire prompts evacuation.** Two firemen were taken to the hospital, but there were no other injuries from a Wednesday morning, August 1, fire at the Bluffton Rubber Company in Montpelier, IN. Local police began precautionary evacuation procedures in the neighborhood around the plant after seeing the dark smoke coming from the building and smelling fumes. "Once we learned what the chemicals were (from company officials), we realized that total evacuation wasn't needed after all," said Chief Jerry Brown. Fire Chief Ric Sills said a paint booth caught on fire; the reason why is still under investigation.

Source: <http://www.thestarpress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070802/NEWS01/708020348/1002>

8. *August 02, Associated Press* — **Faulty valve might have caused ammonia leak.** A faulty valve on a railcar that held ammonia might have led to a small leak near downtown Greenwood, SC, a state health official said Wednesday, August 1. No injuries were reported from the anhydrous ammonia leak, which was described as an intermittent "puff of smoke," state Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesperson Thom Berry said. Several people in homes near the CSX train were asked to evacuate, Berry said. The safety relief valve near the top of the railcar was fixed a few hours after a motorist driving over the train tracks smelled something strange and called police, Berry said. A cleanup contractor hired by CSX, Hepaco Inc., handled the repairs.

Source: http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/aug/02/faulty_valve_might_have_caused_ammonia_111989/

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *August 02, eWeek* — **Web system vets U.S. contractor workers.** The U.S. federal government and the 3.3 million people who work as private–industry contractors to provide goods and services for it now have a centralized, secure, Web–based system for identifying and credentialing outsourced workers around the world. This system, in the works for about five years and tested by the Department of Defense (DoD) for three years, officially went online July 25. It processes outsourced workers whether they represent an aircraft manufacturer or deliver soft drinks to machines on a military base. The announcement was made July 31 at a conference at the Del Monte Hyatt Regency here in Monterey, CA. The DoD has declared the new trusted–identity system, designed and built by a separate not–for–profit coalition of government and private–sector agencies and companies, as the first global and enterprisewide solution for cross–credentialing between industry and the U.S. government. The system makes extensive use of existing corporations' employee credentialing by federating those commercial identity systems into that of the DoD's.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2165313.00.asp>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *August 02, VNUNet* — **ID theft soars in rural U.S.** ID thieves are increasingly targeting U.S. individuals living in rural communities, new research warns. According to a new study by risk management firm ID Analytics, U.S. identity fraud hot spots include the cities of Springfield, IL; and Bozeman and Missoula, MT. In fact, Montana makes multiple appearances in the top ten list: at number four with Whitefish, five with Lolo, seven with Hamilton and eight with Bigfork. Bismarck, ND, takes the number six slot, with Grand Forks and Fargo, also both in North Dakota, taking the ninth and tenth positions. The U.S. counties that emerged as hot spots in the last year include 13 counties in North Dakota and seven counties in Montana. The research also showed that in general identity fraud rates are increasing in the upper Midwest, Northern California, Utah, Nevada and Maine. Identity fraud rates appear to be decreasing in the Southern U.S. and staying consistent in such areas as Southern California, the Mexican

border of Texas and in cities like Seattle, WA, and Portland, OR.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2195472/id-theft-soars-rur-al>

11. *August 02, InformationWeek* — **Fiserv acquires CheckFree for \$4.4 billion.** In a merger of financial giants, Fiserv said Thursday, August 2, that it will acquire CheckFree in an all-cash transaction for \$4.4 billion. Both companies have been on acquisition binges in recent months, and the new combined company is expected to broaden Fiserv's existing strong presence in information management systems and services for the financial and insurance industries to now include CheckFree's strengths in worldwide financial electronic commerce services and products. CheckFree's "payment and Internet banking capabilities will significantly accelerate our strategic transformation, extending our service platform to the largest financial institutions," Jeffrey Yabuki, Fiserv's president and CEO, said in a statement. The two companies have a long history of partnering in the broad financial commerce area.

Source: http://www.informationweek.com/management/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=BIH0H4JDUJYYEQSNDLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=201202_577

12. *August 02, Associated Press* — **Increased fraud comes with increased use of debit cards.** Americans are increasingly reaching for their debit cards rather than their credit cards when they're out shopping. A big problem faced by debit card users is what to do when something goes wrong with a purchase, said Paul Stephens, the director of policy and advocacy for the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Stopping payment works with a credit card, he points out, but not with a debit card because the money for a debit-card purchase in most cases is transferred almost immediately from the consumer's account. Along with the rising popularity of debit cards has come an increase in fraud, Stephens said. There are federal protections for debit card users, but they're not as strong as those for credit card uses. While credit card losses are capped at a maximum of \$50 by federal rules, debit card users must report a loss within two days of discovery to qualify for the \$50 limit; miss the deadline, and they could be out as much as \$500. And if a consumer fails to report the problem within 60 days of getting a bank statement, and the consumer could be ineligible for any reimbursement.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/02/AR2007080200945.html>

13. *August 02, InformationWeek* — **Number of hackers attacking banks jumps 81 percent.** The number of hackers attacking banks worldwide jumped 81 percent from last year, according to figures released at the BlackHat security conference Thursday, August 2. Researchers from SecureWorks also reported that hackers going after the company's credit union clients increased by 62 percent from last year. So why are there so many more hackers this year than last? Joe Stewart, a senior security researcher at SecureWorks, told InformationWeek that highly technical and savvy hackers are no longer the only ones in the game. Hackers no longer need to be technical wizards to set up an operation to steal people's banking information. Hacking toolkits and malware are for sale in the online underground. This new ease-of-use is evident in the numbers. SecureWorks reported that between June 2006 and December 2006, they blocked attacks from about 808 hackers per bank per month. From the beginning of this year through June, there's been an average of 1,462 hackers launching attacks at each of the company's bank clients. As for the credit unions, SecureWorks reported blocking attacks from 1,110 hackers per credit union per month. That number rose to 1,799 this year.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/software/showArticle.jhtml;js>

14. *August 01, Austin Business Journal (TX)* — **Texas Attorney General taking action on Lifetime Fitness for exposing customers to identity theft.** Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has taken action against a fitness club chain for allegedly exposing its customers to identity theft. Abbott's office says several Minnesota-based Lifetime Fitness locations in the Dallas area exposed customers' personal identifying information when staff discarded customer records in easily accessible trash cans behind the businesses. The attorney general's office says Lifetime and its subsidiaries, LTF Club Management Company, LLC and LTF Club Operations Company Inc., violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and the 2005 Identity Theft Enforcement and Protection Act, which requires proper destruction of clients' sensitive personal information. According to investigators, the information that was discarded contained names, addresses, social security numbers and credit card information, as well as the date of birth of several children.
Source: [http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2007/07/30/daily22 .html?t=printable](http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2007/07/30/daily22.html?t=printable)

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *August 02, Department of Transportation* — **Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters announces \$5 million in immediate funding during visit to downed I-35 bridge in Minneapolis.** Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters on Thursday, August 2, announced that, based on Minnesota's request, \$5 million in federal relief will be available to the state to repair the I-35 bridge that collapsed Wednesday night. The Secretary is in Minneapolis touring the bridge site, viewing the damage, and meeting with Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, Senator Norm Coleman, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Keith Ellison, and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. The Secretary pledged that the federal government will continue to be a close partner with the state to do everything possible to get the bridge up and running as soon as possible, and that any future requests for additional funds will be quickly evaluated and processed.
DOT Fact sheet: I-35 Bridge Collapse, Minneapolis:
<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/factsheet080207.htm>
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot7407.htm>

16. *August 02, New York Times* — **Inspections often miss clues to bridge troubles.** In 1987, a New York Thruway bridge near Amsterdam, NY, also had a clean bill of health, but inspectors had never gone underwater into the Schoharie Creek to look at the bridge's footings, where floodwaters had scoured the concrete base. When the footings slipped, the bridge fell. Ten people died. Transportation officials know many of the nation's 600,000 bridges are in need of repair or replacement. About one in eight has been deemed "structurally deficient," a term that typically means a component of the bridge's structure has been rated poor or worse, but does not necessarily warn of imminent collapse. Most deficient bridges, which included the span of Interstate 35W over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, remain open to traffic. However, a study by the Federal Highway Administration has found visual inspections, which has been the primary method used by bridge inspectors, only rarely detect cracks from metal fatigue. In the

study, completed in 2001, 49 bridge inspectors from across the country examined test bridges in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Only four percent correctly identified a fatigue crack. Inspectors now sometimes employ tools like ultrasound, but those add time and cost to their work.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/02/us/01cnd-engineer.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

17. *August 02, USA TODAY* — **Investigators search for answers in fatal Minnesota bridge collapse.** Divers and rescue workers battled strong currents and floating debris Thursday, August 2, in an effort to reach more than two-dozen cars submerged after the collapse of an eight-lane bridge across the Mississippi River. At least four people were killed, Minneapolis Police Lt. Amelia Huffman said Thursday morning. Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan said more bodies remained in the river. The Interstate 35W bridge, one of the city's main arteries, was jammed with slow-moving cars, trucks and a school bus when it collapsed during rush hour Wednesday. Dolan said that as many as 30 people were still unaccounted for and that the recovery effort was going to take several days. At least 60 people were injured, and officials appealed for residents to donate blood. "We have a number of vehicles that are underneath big pieces of concrete, and we do know we have some people in those vehicles," Dolan said. "We know we do have more casualties at the scene." Hennepin County Sheriff Richard Stanek said officials were treating the area as a crime scene until the cause of the accident could be determined but said, "All indications are a collapsing, not an act of someone doing it."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-02-minneapolis-b ridge_N.htm

18. *August 01, USA TODAY* — **British Airways fined \$546 million for price fixing.** British Airways (BA) and Korean Air agreed to plead guilty and pay \$300 million apiece for their roles in price-fixing conspiracies that illegally raised travel costs, U.S. Justice Department officials said Wednesday, August 1. Between 2004 and 2006, British Airways — the largest airline between the U.S. and United Kingdom — raised its fuel surcharge four times to about \$110 round trip, up from about \$10. The airline now admits it colluded with London-based Virgin Atlantic. The price of oil during that time had risen about 55 percent. Korean Air agreed to plead guilty for participating in a conspiracy with unnamed competitors to fix travel prices for passengers, travel agents, and shippers for U.S.–Korea flights between 2000 and 2006. Korean is the largest airline between the U.S. and Korea, and the second-largest carrier between the U.S. and Asia. Earlier on Wednesday, the UK's anti-trust regulator, the Office of Fair Trading, said that BA agreed to pay about \$246 million as a fine to that government for its role in conspiring to fix fuel surcharges with Virgin Atlantic. The two carriers will be obligated to pay restitution to their U.S. passengers, Department of Justice officials say.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-08-01-ba-price-fixing_N.htm

19. *August 01, MyFox Tampa (FL)* — **Florida Woman jailed over loaded gun at airport.** A Hernando County woman was jailed Wednesday morning, August 1, after she allegedly tried to take a loaded handgun through a security checkpoint at Tampa International Airport. Screeners found a .38 caliber Smith & Wesson in a purse belonging to Susan True of Spring Hill around 6 a.m. EDT, airport officials said. The weapon was loaded with five rounds. True, who owns an expired weapons permit, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. The 56-year-old was released at noon on \$2,000 bond.

Source: <http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=3942705&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

20. *August 01, Associated Press* — **Officials investigate California overpass collapse.** A construction worker who fell 50 feet when a highway overpass he was working on in Oroville, CA, collapsed remained in serious condition Wednesday, August 1, as officials tried to determine what caused the structure to give way. Jeffrey Doll, 39, was airlifted to Enloe Medical Center in Chico, where he underwent surgery after fracturing his pelvis, left elbow and lower left leg in the collapse Tuesday morning, July 31. Private contractor FCI Constructors Inc. has been cited by twice since 2003 for safety violations, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration. The company also was one of three contractors, working under the name KFM, fined \$5,790 for failing to report 13 worker injuries on the Oakland–San Francisco Bay Bridge skyway project in June 2006. Jacque Underdown, a spokesperson for the project's second contractor, Granite Construction Co. of Watsonville, CA, said the company was cooperating with state agencies leading the investigation.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070801/bridge_collapse.html?.v=1

21. *July 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–891R: Aviation Security: Federal Coordination on Responding to In–flight Security Threats Has Matured, but Procedures Can Be Strengthened (Correspondence).** Five years after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, concerns continue to be raised about the nation's system for protecting commercial aviation. Past disclosures of terrorists' plans for smuggling liquids onboard aircraft to construct a bomb in flight highlighted the continued need to examine this key aspect of homeland security. One layer of the aviation security system involves the ability of the federal government to respond to actual or potential security threats while a commercial aircraft is in flight. To strengthen the interagency coordination process for resolving in–flight security threats, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommended in its February 2007 report that the Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Transportation (DOT), and Defense (DoD), and the Attorney General (Department of Justice, DOJ), take the following two actions: (1) develop a concept of operations plan or similar interagency document that outlines the general interagency coordination strategy and clearly delineates lines of communication among all agencies and entities involved in resolving in–flight security threats, and (2) ensure that each agency involved in the resolution of in–flight security threats has documented internal standard operating procedures that clearly identify agency procedures for resolving in–flight security incidents, and establish mechanisms for sharing these standard operating procedures with other agencies as appropriate.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-891R>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

22. *August 02, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **National Milk Producers Federation to promote National Animal Identification System.** The U.S. Department of

Agriculture and the National Milk Producers Federation will hold a signing ceremony Thursday, August 2, to mark the awarding of a cooperative agreement to provide educational outreach and register premises as part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Bruce Knight and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Milk Producers Federation Jerry Kozak will be signatories.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/08/naismilk.s.html>

- 23. *August 01, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — USDA announces additional funding for bovine tuberculosis.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Bruce Knight Wednesday, August 1, announced the availability of an additional \$35 million in emergency funding for the bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication program. This is in addition to two million dollars in emergency funding already available for tuberculosis control and eradication. A herd at an isolated dairy farm in Curry County, NM, tested positive for TB in June, and the emergency funding will allow for depopulation and indemnification of the infected herd. The USDA funding also will help support overall TB eradication efforts, which include surveillance, control and epidemiologic investigations. Currently all states are designated accredited-free for TB, except Minnesota and portions of Michigan and New Mexico. Bovine TB is a contagious and infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. In the last five years USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has identified 35 TB-affected herds. The disease results in significant economic costs to the government to eradicate the disease and to producers as a result of increased movement controls.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2007/08/0207.xml

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Food Sector

- 24. *August 02, Yonhap News (South Korea)* — South Korea suspends quarantine inspection of all U.S. beef.** South Korea said Thursday, August 2, it has suspended quarantine inspections of all U.S. beef imports due to its recent discovery of banned bones in shipments. South Korea discovered a box of vertebral columns, designated as "specified risk material" that could potentially cause mad cow disease, in an 18.7 ton shipment the U.S. made in late July. The measure comes about two months after South Korea lifted its temporary restrictions on U.S. beef imports after the discovery of bone fragments in shipments.

Source: <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/business/2007/08/02/90/0502000000AEN20070802003000320F.HTML>

- 25. *August 01, Associated Press* — Two West Texas siblings treated for botulism poisoning in Lubbock.** One of two West Texas siblings confirmed to have botulism poisoning from canned food involved in a nationwide recall remained hospitalized in critical condition Wednesday, August 1, a hospital official said. Castleberry's Food Co. has recalled more than 90 potentially contaminated products nationwide — including canned chili, hash and stew — over fears of botulism contamination. The recall includes two years' production — tens of millions of cans — from the company's plant at Augusta, GA. The second sibling was released from a Covenant

Health System hospital July 26, said Michelle Stephens, a spokesperson for Covenant. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the siblings ate Castleberry's Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce Original for lunch on June 28. The opened can from the meal had been discarded and could not be located. The next day, the two began to show symptoms of botulism poisoning, including eye problems and paralysis on both sides of their bodies.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5019721.html>

26. *August 01, Associated Press* — **FDA suspends plans to close field labs.** The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Commissioner has suspended plans to close more than half the agency's field laboratories. Andrew von Eschenbach is awaiting recommendations from a presidential panel about how to better guarantee the safety of imported food and other products. He said Wednesday, August 1, he wanted to make sure the FDA was "doing the right thing and doing it in the right way" before proceeding. President Bush established the Import Safety Working Group on July 18 and asked for recommendations in 60 days. The panel's creation came on the heels of a spate of recalls of imported food and consumer products, many of them Chinese and regulated by the FDA. Against that backdrop, the FDA has said it wants to consolidate its lab network to modernize its food safety efforts.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2007Aug01/0.4670.FDALabs.00.html>

27. *August 01, Associated Press* — **New Mexico man has botulism poisoning.** A New Mexico man is paralyzed with botulism poisoning, and state health officials said Wednesday, August 1, they are trying to determine if he ate canned food involved in a nationwide recall. Castleberry's Food Co. has recalled more than 90 potentially contaminated products nationwide over fears of botulism contamination. The 52-year-old man, from New Mexico's Sandoval County, was hospitalized July 26 and is in serious condition, able only to wiggle his toes, state health officials said.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/08/01/ap3979060.html>

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Water Sector

28. *July 31, Gazette (IA)* — **'Crypto' cases rise; county identified.** The number of cases of the water-borne illness, cryptosporidiosis, under investigation in Eastern Iowa has increased to 23, the City of Dubuque Health Services Department said Tuesday, July 31. Last week, the Iowa Department of Health noted 17 cases were under investigation into the disease, known as "crypto." The department would not identify the county where the cases were occurring. Mary Rose Corrigan, public health specialist for Dubuque's Health Services Department, said the cases were in Dubuque County. Some of the patients, most of whom were children, had been swimming in public pools; others had exposure to river water and some used well water that could have been contaminated by animal waste, she said.
Source: <http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2007/0731/NEWS/70731032/1006/NEWS>

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Public Health Sector

29. *August 01, Boston Globe* — **Four employees in medical examiner's office test positive for TB.** Four people in the state medical examiner's office have tested positive for a latent form of tuberculosis (TB), but none of them had an active case of the disease, Massachusetts officials said Wednesday, August 1. The four people who had the positive tests pose no threat to anybody else — and business in the office can continue as usual, the officials said.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/globe/city_region/breaking_news/2007/08/four_employees.html
30. *August 01, Howard Hughes Medical Institute* — **Handicapping tuberculosis may be the way to a better vaccine.** Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator William Jacobs and colleagues have produced a genetically altered strain of tuberculosis (TB) that elicits a stronger immune response than the current vaccine, bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG). The new vaccine improves survival of infected animals and may help put scientists on track to replace BCG, which has been used for nearly a century although it is largely ineffective. Despite widespread vaccination programs, the World Health Organization estimates that approximately two billion people worldwide are infected with TB. The immune system has a very difficult time detecting and combating *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria responsible for tuberculosis. By creating a strain of TB that behaves differently, Jacobs believes he can build a vaccine that prepares the body to recognize TB when infected. If a cell becomes aware that a pathogen has invaded, it can prevent the infection from spreading to other cells by committing cell suicide — a process known as apoptosis, where the cell shuts down and is shredded into little pieces.
Source: <http://www.hhmi.org/news/jacobs20070801.html>
31. *August 01, Agence France–Presse* — **Myanmar reports fresh bird flu outbreak.** Military–ruled Myanmar has detected its second outbreak of bird flu in less than a month, this time on a poultry farm in the central region of Bago, health officials said Wednesday, August 1. Lab tests confirmed the H5N1 bird flu virus in dead chickens at a poultry farm in Bago, about 90 miles northwest of Myanmar's main city Yangon, said Kyaw San, an official at the government's livestock department. The finding came just days after Myanmar reported outbreaks on two poultry farms in Mon state, about 180 miles south of Yangon. About 300 chickens were slaughtered on those two farms. The cases were the first known outbreaks of bird flu since June.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070801/hl_afp/healthflumyanmar_070801172718;_ylt=AjX5gwYQwcL7EtYnBSu6TkWJOrgF

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Government Sector

32. *August 02, Marion Star (OH)* — **Man charged in Ohio courthouse mercury spill.** Morrow County authorities have a suspect in what they believe was a malicious attempt to contaminate a public building with the dangerous chemical mercury. The man charged with the crime, a Richland County resident and owner of a Mount Gilead–area campground, was already facing sex charges in Morrow County, Sheriff Steve Brenneman announced Wednesday, August 1, at

a press conference attended by local and Columbus media. Brenneman said Tommy Chris Hansen, 55, was charged Wednesday morning with criminal use of a chemical weapon. The charge is a first-degree felony, and he is being held under a \$250,000 bond. Brenneman said Hansen was arrested at the campground and taken to the Richland County Jail where he is being held on a weapons under disability charge separate from the mercury incident. NBC News 4 reported that Hansen is an owner of the campground. The Morrow County Courthouse was evacuated and shut down for a week on June 27 after mercury was "purposely and maliciously deposited" in the building, according to Brenneman's office. Video surveillance showed a man going through the courthouse in the areas where the mercury was discovered. The man was allegedly in the courthouse minutes before the mercury was discovered.

Source: <http://www.marionstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070802/NEWS01/708020311>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *August 02, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* — **Rescuers brave horrific scene in Minneapolis.** On Wednesday evening, August 1, witnesses rushed through dust and smoke to help bring the injured to safety as emergency workers organized the rescue effort after the I-35W bridge collapsed in Minneapolis, MN. From across the Twin Cities and beyond, rescue workers, doctors, nurses and construction workers flooded into downtown to assist in the rescue efforts. Once inside the ring of pandemonium, the catastrophe became an orderly scene of grim determination and efficiency. Ambulances queued up, police escorting them one by one down into the bridge area. There was little shouting, no chaos. A state command center quickly opened. "It looked like a terrorist attack, a complete catastrophe," said Ryan Murphey, 30, of Minneapolis. "But everyone there was very calm and organized."

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/10204/story/1338783.html>

34. *August 01, Federal Computer Week* — **OFPP calls for volunteers to help in emergencies.** Following recent disasters, particularly Hurricane Katrina, officials want to augment the number of people available and able to participate in response and recovery efforts. The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) wants contracting officers to join a cadre of workers trained to help in crises, so one or two agencies won't bear the brunt of a ton of acquisition demands. In a memo issued July 30, Paul Denett, OFPP administrator, wrote that bolstering this cadre is necessary to ensure the resources are available in emergencies. Denett is asking chief acquisition officers to encourage their contracting officers, or those doing similar work, to join the supplemental cadre. The move will boost how well the agencies can help the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and others in responding to natural disasters, according to the memo. DHS is increasing its supply of acquisition workers, and the General Services Administration is signing more contracts aimed at supporting agencies during emergencies. Many agencies have established and trained groups of employees who could mobilize to help their agency's increased efforts in a disaster.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article103386-08-01-07-Web&printLayout>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. *August 02, IDG News Service* — Project WOMBAT looks to manage online threats.

Researchers are looking for formal European Union sponsorship of a new project that would keep an eye on malicious software and computer attacks around the world. Project WOMBAT (Worldwide Observatory for Malicious Behavior and Attack Tools) is a threat management system being backed by European technology companies and research institutions, including France Telecom SA, the Institut Eurecom, and Hispasec Sistemas, said Stefan Zanero, a researcher with the Institut Politecnico di Milano, who is involved with the project. WOMBAT will serve as an early warning system where security researchers and professionals can get data on emerging threats, but the team will also develop new technologies designed to automate the collection and analysis of malware, Zanero said. Some of the WOMBAT data will be made available to the public, but only those who have been previously vetted will get access to the complete data set.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/02/European-project-to-manage-online-threats_1.html

36. *August 02, IDG News Service* — Web browser attack skirts corporate firewall. A

10-year-old security problem has come back to haunt corporate IT, a security researcher told an audience at the Black Hat conference in Las Vegas Wednesday, August 1. Dan Kaminsky, director of penetration testing for IO Active, showed how problems in the way browser software works with the Internet's domain name system (DNS) could be exploited to give attackers access to any resources behind the corporate firewall. He described a multistep attack that could be used to scan corporate networks for data or vulnerabilities. But at the heart of the attack is a 1996 paper by Princeton researchers showing how a Java applet could be used to access systems on a victim's network. "It's one of the few things that's actually come back from the dead," Kaminsky said. The fundamental problem, according to Kaminsky, is in the way that Web browser software decides how to trust other computers. This decision is based on the Internet domain name of the computer, and that DNS information can be misused, Kaminsky said. "It's a binding problem," he said during an interview after his talk. "They assume a value is not changing, but the attacker can change it whenever he chooses."

Princeton paper: <http://www.cs.princeton.edu/sip/news/dns-scenario.html>

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/02/Web-browser-attack-skirts-corporate-firewall_1.html

37. *August 02, ComputerWorld* — Researchers: Premature rush to AJAX a security threat.

Software developers using Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX) techniques to jazz up corporate Websites are failing to pay attention to some very fundamental security issues, researchers warned at the Black Hat USA conference Wednesday, August 1. Among the biggest of these threats, said Billy Hoffman, lead research and development engineer at SPI Dynamics Inc, is the opening that poorly coded AJAX sites can provide for malicious attackers to change the order in which a program executes functions. Poorly designed AJAX implementations often push program code that used to be stored and executed only on the server out to client browsers. This allows attackers to access the code and to manipulate the order in which a program's functions are executed, Hoffman said. The availability of too much program code on the client side also allows attackers to perform actions such as changing the value of certain parameters or deleting certain program calls entirely. AJAX environments can also present

more opportunities for hackers to inject malformed SQL queries and compromise applications if proper validation measures are not taken.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9028718&intsrc=hm_list

38. *August 02, Sophos* — **Spammed out 'shocking photos' contain malicious payload.** IT security and control firm Sophos is urging computer users to think before opening unsolicited e-mail attachments following a widespread malicious spam campaign that claims to contain shocking nude pictures of female celebrities. The e-mails, which typically have an attached file called amazing.zip or shocking.zip, contain a message similar to: "Good morning, old chap! Shocking video of nude Angelina Jolie. See it in your attachment. Best Regards." The e-mails are exploiting the fame of Hollywood stars such as Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie and Natalie Portman in their attempt to get computer users to open the attached file on their computers. "These e-mails are masquerading as pornographic content, tempting the unwary into opening a file on their Windows computer which will install a rootkit and download further malicious code from the Internet," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/08/nude-celebs.html>
39. *August 01, ComputerWorld* — **Diebold e-voting flaws could compromise elections.** Optical scan voting devices slated to be used in presidential primary elections in Florida next year are significantly flawed and could compromise the outcome of the contest, according to a report released Tuesday, July 31, by Secretary of State Kurt Browning. The report was compiled by researchers at Florida State University who were hired by Browning in May to conduct an independent review of optical scan and touch-screen devices made by Diebold Election Systems, one of the largest voting machine vendors in the country and a major supplier of gear to Florida. The report cited a number of security gaps in the Diebold systems. For example, it said, Diebold's Accuvote OS optical scan machine is vulnerable to vote manipulation by illicitly inserting a preprogrammed memory card into a voting terminal. The report said that the card could be coded to flip votes from one candidate to another without detection. Browning also said he intends to have the Florida State researchers conduct similar studies of machines from other voting system vendors, including Elections Systems & Software Inc. Report: <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/SAITreport.pdf> Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9028626&intsrc=hm_list
40. *August 01, ComputerWorld* — **Apple issues mega patch batch.** Apple Inc. on Tuesday, July 31, released a security update for Mac OS X that patched 45 vulnerabilities, including several in the open-source Samba file-sharing code that researchers recently warned still threatened users more than 10 weeks after the discovery of critical bugs. The 2007-007 update for Mac OS X 10.3, also known as "Panther," and 10.4, a.k.a. "Tiger," fixes a total of 45 bugs, at least 17 of which Apple acknowledged could lead to hackers executing attack code. Although Apple does not rate vulnerabilities as Microsoft Corp. and other companies do, the flaws it pegs as possibly leading to "arbitrary code execution" would rank as "critical" in other vendors' threat-scoring systems. 2007-007 Apple update: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=306172> Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9028638&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

41. *August 02, Baltimore Sun* — **Precious metals ripped from cars.** Catalytic converters are increasingly lucrative targets for thieves, who chop them off for the precious metals inside, such as platinum and rhodium, which are trading at higher prices than gold and fueling an industrial boom in Asia. The thefts, which can take less than a minute, are an international problem and are committed in large part by drug addicts who sell the converters to backyard mechanics or scrap dealers for \$100 to \$150 each, said Baltimore County Detective Sgt. Bob Jagoe, a member of the Regional Auto Theft Task Force. The converters, which made their debut in the United States in the mid-1970s in response to stricter federal pollution standards, clean the most harmful pollutants from a car's exhaust. The cost to replace a stolen converter can vary from \$400 to \$1,400, depending on how much of the exhaust system the thieves remove. This week, rhodium was selling for \$5,960 an ounce; platinum, \$1,300; and palladium, \$365. By comparison, gold was trading at \$667 an ounce. Jagoe said that thieves often target foreign-made sport utility vehicles and trucks because they're easier to slide under and the converters are larger and thus contain more precious metals.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.catalytic02aug02.0.5418992.story?coll=bal_tab01_layout

42. *August 02, Dallas Business Journal* — **New technology to discourage copper theft.** Oncor Electric Delivery said Thursday, August 2, it will implement a type of nanotechnology in its products that will cut down on copper wire theft. The technology invisibly marks Oncor equipment, particularly its copper wire, so it can be identified after it has been stolen. Oncor, the transmission business of Dallas-based TXU Corp., said when copper ground wires are stolen it presents a safety hazard for the thieves and Oncor employees, who can be shocked or injured.

Source: http://dallas.bizjournals.com/dallas/stories/2007/07/30/dail_y33.html?jst=b_in_hl

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